

#### COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

# County of Fairfax BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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# BOARD MATTER Joining the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda June 6, 2017

Yesterday, I expressed interest in Fairfax County joining the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda. Joining this effort is in line with the County's demonstrated leadership on climate change in the past 10 years to promote and encourage energy efficiency and conservation efforts and renewable energy initiatives by county employees, businesses and residents.

In 2007, the Board of Supervisors led a similar national effort in creating the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Initiative. Through the adoption of Cool Counties, Fairfax County has already committed to the three main pillars of the Climate Mayors agenda: developing a community greenhouse gas emissions inventory; setting near- and long-term emissions reduction targets; and develop a climate action plan. I see joining the Mayors initiative as a recommitment to doing what we are already doing, which is to work with local authorities, businesses, and residents to encourage sustainable reductions of the county's geographical emissions that will contribute to achieving the targets as identified by the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

As this Board knows, Fairfax County has met its initial goal of halting emissions growth by 2010. Our Cool Counties pledge includes a reduction of county geographical emissions of 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and of 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. Our latest inventory will be released this summer.

I look forward to continuing our efforts with our regional, state and federal partners to meet our goals.

## Paris Agreement Adoption Toolkit

# For US cities and municipalities participating in the Climate Mayors network

Last updated 2nd June 2017.

On this page, you will find resources to assist your city in joining the Climate Mayors network and adopting the Paris Agreement. This is intended as a rapid response toolkit for US cities in light of the President's action on 1st June 2017 to withdraw US participation from the Paris Agreement.

### About Climate Mayors

Climate Mayors (aka the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda) is a Mayor-to-Mayor network of US Mayors collaborating on climate. It is led by Mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles and operationally run by the Chief Sustainability Officer for LA, Matt Petersen and Deputy CSO, Lauren Faber.

There are no binding commitments as a Climate Mayors members, only that cities are pursuing actions to achieve an emissions reduction target through:

- 1. Developing a community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory
- 2. Setting near- and long-term targets to reduce emissions
- 3. Developing a Climate Action Plan aligned with the city's targets.

In addition, we ask members of the Climate Mayors network to join in occasional letters and statements, as well as substantive initiatives like our <u>EV RFI</u>. We hold monthly coordination calls for each city's Sustainability/Climate Lead to participate and share progress.

For media enquiries please email info@climate-mayors.org.

### Joining Climate Mayors

Climate Mayors membership is open to Mayors of US cities, towns and municipalities.

There is no formal process for mayors to join <u>Climate Mayors</u>. We require an email (to <u>info@climate-mayors.org</u>) from a responsible authority within each city (typically a Mayor's office, Chief of Staff, or policy/environmental department lead). Please nominate your city's policy/climate lead as well as a communications lead to represent your mayor and city when you email us.

If you are a private citizen or community group, and would like your Mayor to join our network, please approach your Mayor's Office or other elected officials to ask whether they would consider joining this network.

Mayors Garcetti, Parker, Nutter and each additional Mayor and city that join the initiative commit to:

- 1. Calling for binding emission reductions at the US federal level as well as a global emission reductions agreement;
- 2. Engaging in and supporting activities leading up to and during the 2015 negotiations in Paris to support the Obama Administration and other parties to create a global agreement;
- 3. Establishing and regularly reporting annually or bi-annually a municipal and community-wide GHG inventory (preferably with third party verification), while supporting standardization of municipal and community-wide inventories and reporting;
- 4. Establishing, or renewing, an existing aggressive GHG emissions reduction target for both the near term (i.e., by 2020 or sooner) and long term (e.g., 80% reductions by 2050);
- 5. Developing, or updating, a community climate action plan, which identifies specific strategies for meeting the emissions reduction target as well as tying mitigation with adaptation measures where possible;
- 6. Committing to finding an appropriate offset project(s), working collectively to remove barriers, and expanding offsets available to municipalities offered by the Climate Action Reserve, and other measures through the California cap and trade system (or other existing system);
- 7. Ensuring climate equity and environmental justice is prioritized in climate action plans.

Collectively this effort will be called, "The Mayors National Climate Action Agenda."